

1 ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

2 In the j-laying of a pipeline from an offshore floating vessel, the method for raising a
3 pipe section from a horizontal position proximate the deck of the floating vessel to
4 alignment with a mast for being connected to the end of the pipeline, comprising
5 providing a main support arm which is pivoted from a horizontal position to a position
6 parallel to the mast, providing a rotational axis mounted on the main support arm,
7 providing grabbers mounted on the rotational axis to engage the pipe section on the
8 deck, rotating the grabbers about the center of the rotational axis from a position below
9 the rotational axis to a second position above the rotational axis, pivoting the main
10 support arm and the pipe section to a position parallel to the mast, and delivering the
11 pipe section to the mast.

12